

Re Claim 38

The Office Action went on to say:

“Concerning claim 38, Nilssen discloses a high-frequency power source (abstract), an interconnecting cable (Fig. 8, cable on far left with alternate power source) and multiple luminaires (Fig. 8), the interconnecting cable being supplied with no luminaires connected thereto (Fig. 8, cable on far left with alternate power source). Nilssen does not disclose the system being characterized in that multiple luminaires are powered from the same interconnecting cable without cutting the cable.

Cook et al. discloses the multiple luminaires that can be powered from the same interconnecting cable without cutting the cable (Figs. 1 and 2, column 3 in lines 15-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connection of Cook et al. in the apparatus of Nilssen to enable one to use the same set of wires to connect multiple luminaires so that they can be connected in parallel so that the string works even if one lamp burns out.”

Applicants Response Re Claim 38

Applicant disagrees with Examiners rejection for substantially the same reasons listed above regarding original Claim 33:

1. Examiner stated, “Cook et al. discloses the multiple luminaires that can be powered from the same interconnecting cable without cutting the cable (Figs. 1 and 2, column 3 in lines 15-27).”, but Cook ‘839 does not disclose the limitation that, “the interconnecting cable being supplied with no luminaires connected there to”. Clearly the Strip Lighting System in Cook is supplied with the “luminaires” attached to the “leads 4” with everything contained in a “flexible tube 1”.
2. Examiner stated, “It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connection of Cook et al. in the apparatus of Nilssen to enable one to use the same set of wires to connect multiple luminaires so that they can be connected in parallel so that the string works even if one lamp burns out.”, but as stated above contrary to Examiner’s statement it not only wouldn’t have been obvious, it would have been impossible to “use the connection of Cook et al. in the apparatus of Nilssen to enable one to use the same set of wires to connect multiple luminaires so that they can be connected in parallel

so that the string works even if one lamp burns out” due to the fact that the very nature of Nilssen’ series resonant “special power supply SPS, whose schematic is shown in Fig. 5, requires that all the lamps be connected in series with one another and with the output of the SPS power supply. This is described in detail in Col. 9, Lines 4-67. Especially telling are the special “normally-shortened switch means integrally combined with a female receptacle means” (Col 9, Lines 62-63).

Applicant believes there is no conceivable way the Nilssen series circuit could be combined with the Cooke parallel arrangement.

Thus the combination of Cook and Nilssen would not have been obvious and if attempted could not have worked. In addition if they could have been combined, neither Nilssen nor Cook suggests a single “interconnecting cable supplied with no luminaires connected there to”. These novel physical features of original Claim 38 produce new and unexpected results and hence are not obvious and are patentable over these references.

Applicant has renumbered original Claim 38 as now Claim 65 and has changed the word “cutting” to “severing” to more clearly define the claim since an insulation-displacement connector will cut into the insulation of the cable, but will not cut through the cable. The word sever more clearly makes this point.

3865. (Amended) A high-frequency under-cabinet lighting system comprising: a high-frequency power source, an interconnecting cable, and multiple luminaires; the interconnecting cable being supplied with no luminaires connected there to; and the system further characterized in that multiple luminaires can be powered from the same interconnecting cable without ~~cutting~~ severing the interconnecting cable.

New Claims

Applicant has substituted the following 6 independent claims and 26 dependent claims drawn to a lighting system to replace the 6 independent and 26 dependent claims withdrawn from the original application because they were drawn to an electrical connector.

56. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the luminaire can be mounted in place prior to the insertion of the interconnecting cable.
57. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the interconnecting cable is installed in place under the cabinet or shelf before the luminaire is mounted in place under the cabinet or shelf.
58. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the luminaires can be relocated along the interconnecting cable.
59. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the luminaire can be connected to the interconnecting cable in any one of four possible orientations.
60. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the input terminals have a circular or oval cross-section.
61. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the input terminals have a flat cross-section.
62. (New) The luminaire described in claim 55, wherein the luminaires include a ballasting circuit capable of powering at least one gas-discharge lamp.
63. (New) The luminaire described in claim 62, wherein the at least one gas-discharge lamp is a single-ended gas-discharge lamp.
64. (New) The luminaire described in claim 62, wherein the ballasting circuit includes an arrangement capable of changing the power level provided to the at least one gas-discharge lamp.
66. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaire can be mounted in place prior to the connection to the interconnecting cable.

67. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the interconnecting cable is installed in place under the cabinet or shelf before the luminaire is mounted in place under the cabinet or shelf.
68. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaire can be relocated along the interconnecting cable.
69. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaire can be connected to the interconnecting cable in any one of four possible orientations.
70. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaire has input terminals; and the input terminals have a circular or oval cross-section.
71. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaire has input terminals; and the input terminals have a flat cross-section.
72. (New) The luminaire described in claim 65, wherein the luminaires include a ballasting circuit capable of powering at least one gas-discharge lamp.
73. (New) The luminaire described in claim 72, wherein the at least one gas-discharge lamp is a single-ended gas-discharge lamp.
74. (New) The luminaire described in claim 72, wherein the ballasting circuit includes an arrangement capable of changing the power level provided to the at least one gas-discharge lamp.
75. (New) A high-frequency under-cabinet lighting system comprising: a high-frequency power source, an interconnecting cable, and multiple luminaires;
the high-frequency power source being connected to and powered from a standard utility power line and having a high-frequency power output;

the interconnecting cable being connected to said high-frequency power output;
said interconnecting cable not being a track of a track lighting system;
the interconnecting cable being supplied from a manufacturing facility with no luminaires connected thereto;
the system further characterized in that multiple luminaires can be powered from the same interconnecting cable without severing the interconnecting cable; and
during installation, luminaires are connected to a single interconnecting cable at multiple points along the interconnecting cable using an insulation-displacement connection.

76. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the luminaire can be mounted in place prior to the connection to the interconnecting cable.

77. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the interconnecting cable is installed in place under the cabinet or shelf before the luminaire is mounted in place under the cabinet or shelf.

78. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the luminaire can be relocated along the interconnecting cable.

79. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the luminaire can be connected to the interconnecting cable in any one of four possible orientations.

80. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the luminaire has input terminals; and the input terminals have a flat cross-section.

81. (New) The luminaire described in claim 75, wherein the luminaires include a ballasting circuit capable of powering at least one gas-discharge lamp.

82. (New) The luminaire described in claim 81, wherein the at least one gas-discharge lamp is a single-ended gas-discharge lamp.

83. (New) The luminaire described in claim 81, wherein the ballasting circuit includes an arrangement capable of changing the power level provided to the at least one gas-discharge lamp.

84. (New) A method of providing under-cabinet lighting, comprising the steps of:
mounting the ballasted socket assemblies to the under side of the cabinet or shelf,
passing a high-frequency output cord along the bottom of a cabinet or a shelf,
placing the high-frequency output cord within a channel provided in the ballasted socket assembly,
operating a mechanism that causes the ballasted socket assembly to make electrical contact with conductors within the high-frequency output cord.

85. (New) A method of providing under-cabinet lighting, comprising the steps of:
attaching a reflector to a ballasted-socket assembly,
mounting the ballasted socket assembly to the under side of the cabinet or shelf,
passing a high-frequency output cord along the bottom of a cabinet or a shelf,
placing the high-frequency output cord within a channel provided in the ballasted socket assembly,
operating a mechanism that causes the ballasted socket assembly to make electrical contact with conductors within the high-frequency output cord.

86. (New) A method of providing under-cabinet lighting, comprising the steps of:
positioning a reflector between a ballasted-socket assembly and the underside of a cabinet or shelf,
mounting the ballasted socket assemblies to the under side of the cabinet or shelf
passing a high-frequency output cord along the bottom of a cabinet or a shelf,
placing the high-frequency output cord within a channel provided in the ballasted socket assembly,
operating a mechanism that causes the ballasted socket assembly to make electrical contact with conductors within the high-frequency output cord.

87. (New) A method of providing under-cabinet lighting, comprising the steps of:
orienting a ballasted-socket assembly in one of four possible orientations,
mounting the ballasted socket assembly to the underside of the cabinet or shelf,
passing a high-frequency output cord along the bottom of a cabinet or a shelf,
placing the high-frequency output cord within a channel provided in the ballasted socket
assembly,
operating a mechanism that causes the ballasted socket assembly to make electrical
contact with conductors within the high-frequency output cord.

88. (New) A method of providing under-cabinet lighting using gas-discharge lamps,
comprising the steps of:
mounting the ballasted socket assemblies to the under side of the cabinet or shelf,
passing a high-frequency output cord along the bottom of a cabinet or a shelf,
placing the high-frequency output cord within a channel provided in the ballasted socket
assembly,
operating a mechanism that causes the ballasted socket assembly to make electrical
contact with conductors within the high-frequency output cord.